2: Adams E-4,5 (1970-1971) 1973 SR9 Carib SR9
(1932-1971) Barama River

V

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION FOR SUBSISTENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

177 592 Although the resources for subsistence and the organization involved in exploiting them have changed, the household has remained the primary cooperative economic unit among the Upper Barama River [423] Carib population. There is no land tenure, no accumulation of capital [471] in any form, and no inheritance of any consequence. Thus, household [428] composition and the relationships among households have conformed to the immediate situations affecting the problem of subsistence.

Subsistence in the Rain Forest

175 592 For the 1932-33 period, Gillin reports that a household was composed of a man and his wife or wives and their unmarried children. [737] These children include their own and ones that have been adopted. A relative from the older generation might be absorbed as a dependent. [586] Divorce or death could dissolve a household, the remaining members [768] joining existing households or forming new households with available [525] partners. There seems to have been universal marriage for everyone of reproductive age, making the household coterminous with the family (1936:80).

175 342 Households were settled in their cultivated fields. A house structure was commonly a pole frame covered with a roof thatched from various palm leaves. Dimensions varied from six to over thirty feet

Holding office has 115
served to extend the household of the current
*177 592 622 621 Captain. He is about fifty and has two wives, one of whom he married as a widow and one who is very young. Extra adult members have been added by including a daughter of the older wife, and a daughter and granddaughter of the Captain's stepmother. They have all brought a
[428] son-in-law into this extended household. In this last case, as in all these residential arrangements, there is no promise of inheritance or other legacy beyond the situation to hold extended households together.

*177 592 621 [596] External resources have resulted in centralized settlements within which kinship groups residing in different clearings tend to be closed resource-sharing social units. For the most part, the clearings are inhabited by single households composed of extended families. In no case are individuals or young, childless couples living alone. Co-residence may be considered an index of extended cooperation and
*177 476 sharing of resources. Men who reside in the same clearing have partnerships in cultivated fields which along with hunting and gathering and occasional employment are the major sources of subsistence since the closing of the gold mine. The pattern of more extended reciprocity which existed prior to the availability of external resources has been changed. No longer is there any marked occurrence of the exchange of assistance among groups of men who are brothers or parallel cousins. In the cases in which adult brothers are in co-residence, usually their father is also present. Men in much more circumscribed relationships; i.e., father, son, son-in-law, now tend to cooperate in securing subsistence from local as well as external resources. Within the pattern of trans-generational recruitment,